

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW, CLAIM STATUS & AMENDMENTS

Applicants thank Examiner Steadman for the telephone interview regarding the reasons for the new Office Action.

Claims 1, 13 and 15 were pending in this application when last examined.

Claim 15 was examined on the merits and stands rejected.

Claims 1 and 13 have been allowed. Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 15 has been amended to remove element (c). Support for this amendment can be found in the claim as filed. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on any canceled subject matter.

No new matter has been added.

II. ANTICIPATION REJECTION

In item 6 on pages 2-4 of the Action, claim 15 was newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Weckwerth et al. (J. Biol. Chem., Vol. 275, No. 23, pp. 17909-17915, 2000), as cited in the IDS filed on March 6, 2002.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment overcomes this rejection. In the interview, the Examiner noted that removing element (c) of claim 15 would overcome the rejection. Without intending to acquiesce to the rejection and for the sole purpose of expediting allowance, claim 15 has been so amended. Thus, the present amendment overcome this rejection. Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance.

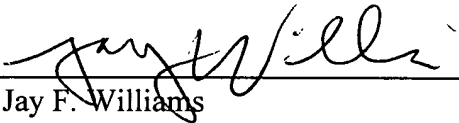
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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